

## **FINAL REPORT ON “A.I.D.” PILOT PROJECT**

**A.I.D. = Asistencia Integral a los Deportados  
(Holistic Assistance for Deportees)**

### **PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

#### **Background**

- Many individuals, who are repatriated to Mexico after deportation proceedings, choose to reside in one of Mexico’s northern border cities, in order to stay as close as possible to family members in the United States. Tijuana is one of these cities, and currently receives around twelve thousand deportees per month.
- ***The Border Church / La Iglesia Fronteriza*** is a bi-national effort that started in 2011 and continues to date, meeting weekly at Friendship Park in San Diego, CA and the lighthouse plaza in Playas de Tijuana. With extensive experience working with deportees, the leaders of this community have launched a program of humanitarian providing not only food, clothing, and shoes, but comprehensive personalized attention.
- The United Methodist Church (California-Pacific Annual Conference) and the Methodist Church of Mexico (National Commission of Migratory Affairs) joined together to create a pilot program that demonstrated the feasibility in rescuing people from the streets by providing them comprehensive assistance in establishing their residence in the city.

#### **Social Benefits**

- The most dangerous aspect of crossing the border is that many deportees die, while trying to return illegally to their families in the United States. Many others, who choose to stay in Mexico, end up living in harsh, outdoor conditions (in mountains, canyons, beaches, etc.). If they are unable to find their way, they often end up on the streets of Tijuana, contributing to the city’s crisis of poverty and homelessness. Deportees are often lost and overwhelmed when they find themselves suddenly in a place they don’t know. Traumatized by their deportation, they frequently end up suffering from chronic depression.

**General Objective of Program:** Re-integration into society for deported individuals through employment and housing.

**Specific Objective of Pilot Project:** Through a comprehensive program, prepare 20 male deported individuals to become residents and neighbors in the city of Tijuana.

**Conclusion:** The percentage result of the pilot program was satisfactory in 80%, obtaining 16 people (of 20), as new residents of the city, with the Support of counseling, Psychological Work and Social Work.

# HOLISTIC ASSISTANCE FOR DEPORTEES AND THEIR FAMILIES

## PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

### Program Highlights

- Based on our extensive experience working with deportees, we identified three different types of intervention to establish a comprehensive program:
  - **Counseling.** Orientation and persuasion toward an effective method of confronting the realities of deportation.
  - **Psychological Treatment.** Through psychological attention, decrease the pressure caused by the burden of family separation and loss of hard-earned achievements motivating them to become part of Mexican society and residents of this city.
  - **Social Work.** Here we achieved the acquiring of identification documents and training for job interviews in order to obtain officially documented employment. In addition, we supported them in what was needed in finding housing. This preparation consisted of a diverse set of workshops preparing them for different environments that will help them obtain stability in the city.

### Salaried Personnel

- For this Pilot Project, the following personnel was assembled:
  - Director
  - Psychologist
  - Social worker
  - Cook
  - Driver
  - Document Specialist

### Volunteer Personnel

- With the help of volunteers, additional supports were mobilized
  - Workshops. Approximately twelve workshops per week were performed.
  - Communications. Students from the state university documented the program, creating a chronological history in video clip format.
  - Documentation. Working with employees of the State Government of Baja California, our document specialist was able to expedite the acquisition of necessary identification documents, the lack of which often holds deportees back from integrating into society.

### Infrastructure and Paperwork

- We constructed dormitories with bunk beds, a fully equipped kitchen, and dining area all inside the warehouse where the workshops were also held.
- Two offices were used. One for the administration of the Project and the other for therapy sessions.
- An SUV-type vehicle was utilized to transport participants throughout the different stages of the program.

## HOLISTIC ASSISTANCE FOR DEPORTEES AND THEIR FAMILIES

- The AID image, logo, a flyer and a Power Point presentation were developed.
- The recruitment and registration forms were developed.
- Through social networks, the Social Work office created a petition for donations that yielded bunk beds, mattresses, sheets, blankets, pillows, cloths, shoes, personal hygiene items, a hot water heater, large throw rug for the bedroom, shower curtain rod, file cabinets, small refrigerator, books, magazines, movies, etc.

### Search and Enrollment

- The search and enrollment process was conducted at two locations: the Salvation Army (a temporary shelter for deportees) and the Border Church, the weekly gathering at Friendship Park/El Parque de la Amistad.
- The program was presented to the potential new members, providing basic information and asking basic questions, while inviting them to join the program. Participants were encouraged to avoid the common dangers of attempting to cross the border illegally, or seeking temporary refuge in the strip of land along the border ("*el bordo*," a dangerous area). Registration cards and an anti-doping interview technique were used to screen and identify qualified candidates. (The A.I.D. program is not equipped to provide addiction rehabilitation services.)
- The goal was to find four individuals every two weeks of the ten-week program. The final result of the pilot phase was to enroll 16 new members (80 percent of the goal).
- The majority of participants were recently deported. One Salvadoran immigrant (in Mexico with an asylum credential), and two Mexican nationals, had already been living in Tijuana for several years.

RECRUITMENT AND OPERATION														
FEBRUARY			MARCH				APRIL				MAY		INDS REC'D	
13	20	27	6	13	20	27	3	10	17	24	1	8		
REC													4	
		REC											4	
				REC									4	
						REC							4	
													0	
TOTAL													16	
RECRUITMENT			OPERATION				EXTENTION				NO RECRUITMENT			

## **HOLISTIC ASSISTANCE FOR DEPORTEES AND THEIR FAMILIES**

### **Orientation (first night)**

- After the process of enrollment, the participants were taken to the above-mentioned warehouse, where they were greeted by a team of professionals, welcoming them. They were introduced to the program and its main components.
- Then, working as a team, the staff and residents developed “house rules”:
  - Internal procedures
    - Bedroom, kitchen, warehouse
    - Operating hours
  - Group regulations
    - Created by the participants themselves
  - Naming of member in charge of the group
    - Responsibilities
- Next there was a group therapy session. Taking turns, individuals would introduce themselves, mentioning the place where he/she was born, the American city from which they came, how long they were in a detention center or jail, etc. They also talked about their family, their abilities, and their talents.
- With the above information, members of the staff were able to establish a profile for each person which facilitated customized courses of action for each.
- Finally, the residents would clean up, eat dinner, and settle into the dormitory for rest for the night.

### **Food**

- During the participants’ stay, they were offered breakfast, lunch and dinner, with diverse and balanced choices.
- Group outings introduced participants to the city of Tijuana and local food options, giving them a taste of Tijuana cuisine.
- For birthday celebrations, a special menu was created.

### **Timeline**

- The Psychology and Social Work staff members collaborated to develop a timeline of weekly activities.

## **HOLISTIC ASSISTANCE FOR DEPORTEES AND THEIR FAMILIES**

### **FIRST WEEK**

#### **MORNING ACTIVITIES**

- \* Get up
- \* Personal Cleanliness
- \* Devotional
- \* Breakfast
- \* Counseling
- \* Psychological Therapy
- \* Medicine
- \* Contact with your families
- \* Obtaining Personal Documents
- \* Sunday visit Faro Church Services

#### **NIGHTLY ACTIVITIES**

- \* Food
- \* Cleaning
- \* Break
- \* Contact with your families
- \* Location of space
- \* City Tour
- \* Work Shops
- \* Dinner
- \* Break
- \* Cinema, CECUT, etc.

### **SECOND WEEK**

#### **MORNING ACTIVITIES**

- \*Get up
- \* Personal Cleanliness
- \* Devotional
- \* Breakfast
- \* Job Interviews
- \* Sunday visit Faro Church Services

#### **NIGHTLY ACTIVITIES**

- \* Food
- \* Cleaning
- \* Break
- \* Work Orientation Workshop
- \* Workshops
- \* Cinema, CECUT, etc.

### **THIRD WEEK**

#### **MORNING ACTIVITIES**

- \*Get up
- \* Personal Cleanliness
- \* Devotional
- \* Breakfast
- \* Formal Work
- \* Sunday visit Faro Church Services

#### **NIGHTLY ACTIVITIES**

- \* Break
- \* Search for Apartments for Rent
- \* Work Shops
- \* Cinema, CECUT, etc.

## **HOLISTIC ASSISTANCE FOR DEPORTEES AND THEIR FAMILIES**

### **Counseling**

Counseling support was a very important aspect as it strengthened people who had gone through many unfortunate events in depression, loss, and mourning and replaced with Peace, Hope and Fellowship. Mainly in the accompaniment.

- Particularly before breakfast, a devotional talk was held that conditioned the day's advice.
- Identity. By exposing the Self to the universe, each one is placed in their environment as individuals within a macrocosm, supporting the importance of who we are, through inheritance.
- Responsible awareness of being was exercised through Free Will, in the environment of daily life.
- Overcoming and growing. By virtue of the environment, we know that we are not alone and that the development of man at best has been in unity.

### **Psychological work**

Every Monday, individual psychological therapy was offered to all participants in the program. Individual aspects were recognized in the life of each person, with the aim of achieving emotional stability, limiting the ill-effects of deportation, and establishing a work routine, in collaboration with the Social Worker.

- Every Friday, group psychological therapy was offered. Through these combined methods of individual and group therapy, participants were encouraged to explore paths toward becoming permanent and productive residents of Tijuana.
- Each week, follow-up therapy was offered, either face- to-face or by telephone.
- A continuous focus of the program was the personal decision-making of each participant, including decisions about relationships with family and friends left behind, the search for work, and obtaining housing in Tijuana.
- Interpersonal conflicts were dealt with by the group, facilitated by staff.
- Working with the Social Worker, professional training was offered in the format of Workshops.
- Necessary medicines were obtained through prescriptions written by the volunteer Doctor.
- Cultural opportunities included tours of the city and visits to the Tonalá Cinema.
- Links were created with companies and job boards in the city, through which employment opportunities were identified and interviews obtained.
- Immigration and Legal advice was offered to assist participants in searching search for any relief available, and in exploring any avenues for returning legally to the USA.

## **HOLISTIC ASSISTANCE FOR DEPORTEES AND THEIR FAMILIES**

- With the voluntary support of altruistic people, about 12 weekly workshops were held, which were set up with the aim of helping participants to establish themselves as residents of the City.

### **Social Work**

The following activities were carried out:

- Medical Review. Each group underwent a general medical examination, by an agreement with the Faculty of Medicine of the UABC, being assigned a voluntary doctor. If any medication was required, was provided.
- Location awareness: This workshop has the objective of locating them geographically, starting from where they came from, locating Tijuana. This through a map, which also showed the city and the most outstanding points.  
Or Obtaining Personal Documents. In the first week, through the collaboration of the Municipal Government, State and related organizations, it was possible to obtain the Birth Certificate, the Voting Credential and the Single Population Code, necessary requirements for obtaining a formal job.
- Work orientation. The first week, they were provided job counseling and interview preparation. (How To Make a Great Impression on Initial Interview)
- By the second week, the group was submitted to job interviews in different companies, so that at the end of the week, they would be fully employed.
- Housing Search. The process of getting a home was one of the program's most difficult jobs as there are many people who still have the stigma or the belief that the deportees are delinquents and give up renting their property. We opted not to mention that they were deported, however we extended the time program time to allow sufficient time to establish housing.
- Urban and cultural walks. This was a good time, giving men the opportunity to know the environment and the life of the city, through a guided walk in which they were shown the most important points. After this tour, they were taken to cultural centers, where they saw a movie in a dome cinema (Imax), visited the museum of California's where they learned the history of the state, and other important areas of Tijuana.
- Links were established with companies and city employment department, for which the required formal work was obtained.
- An agreement was made with students of the UABC communication career, to make a video documentary, of the AID program.
- Workshops and Practices. With the voluntary support of altruistic people, there were around 12 weekly workshops, which are mentioned below
  - Swimming classes
  - Legal advice, education certificates, paper work

## **HOLISTIC ASSISTANCE FOR DEPORTEES AND THEIR FAMILIES**

- Job counseling workshop
- ESL English Classes
- CV/portrait for family/ writing Cinema UABC
- Social Work, Social Support
- Management, logistics, job search, housing, Data research
- Legal advice, certificates, INEA, CECATI, share experience. Medical Support, dance
- Medical Support, health prevention it confirms the schedule in which your students attend
- Life story workshop
- Recreational activity, play
- Yoga (Wednesday 9-11am), computing, cooking, home economics work orientation workshop, Wednesday 5:00pm
- Digital Literacy

### **Legal advice on Immigration**

Legal advice was also brought to bear on each migrant's case, and to analyze the possibilities of returning to the United States legally.



## HOLISTIC ASSISTANCE FOR DEPORTEES AND THEIR FAMILIES

### Financial analysis the following observations are presented below:

See the Appendix for a summary of Expenditures and its comparison by concepts.

- **The Kitchen Assistant** (auxiliary staff) was contracted.
- **The Driver and gasoline consumption** cost more than expected given that the start of the program was delayed by 4 weeks, caused by the initial shortage of housing.

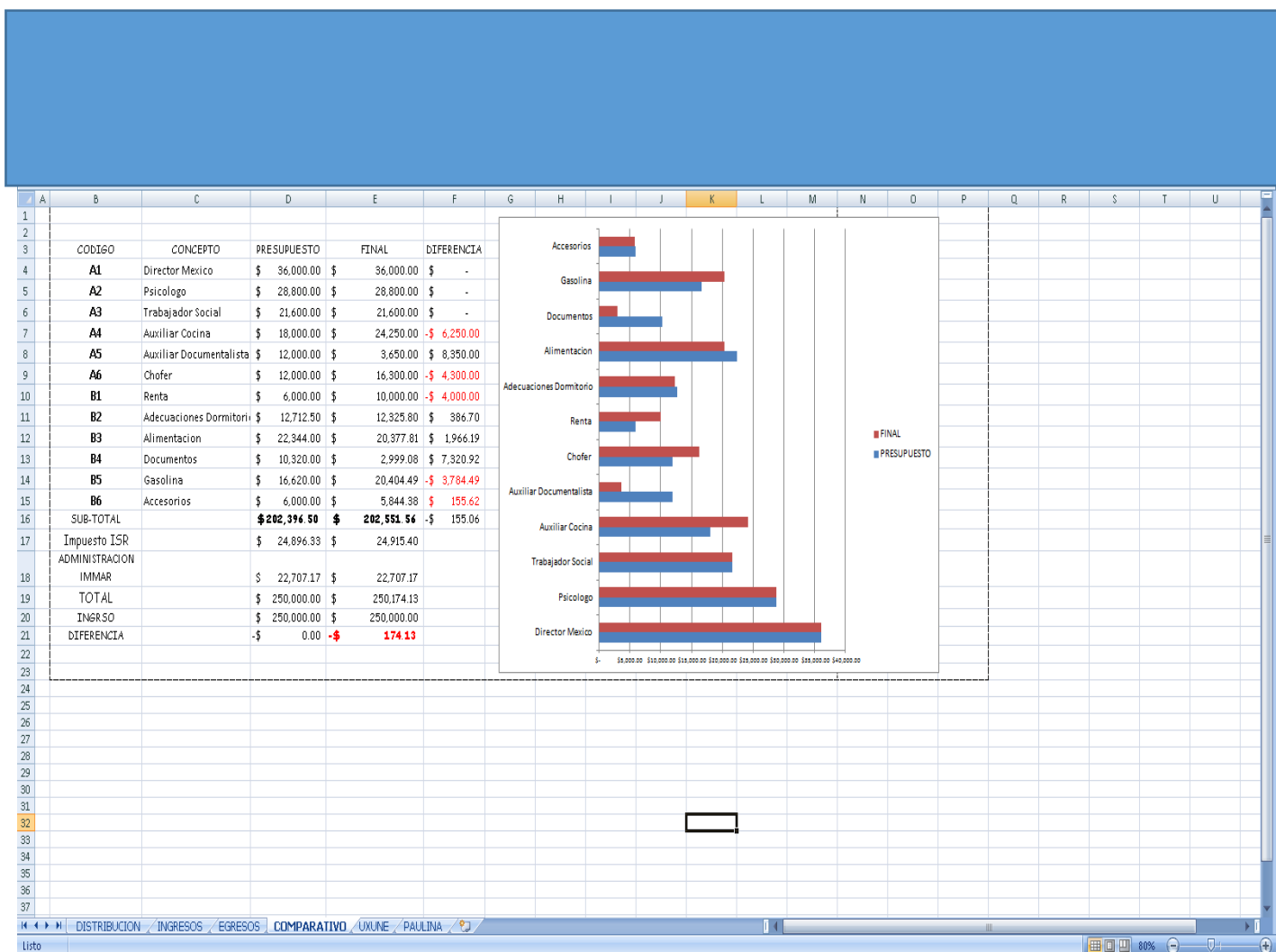
B3	FOOD	\$22,344.00	\$20,377.81	
B4	DOCUMENTS	\$10,320.00	\$2,999.08	
B5	GAS	\$16,620.00	\$20,404.49	
B6	ACCESSORIES	\$6,000.00	\$5,844.38	
SUB TOTAL		\$202,396.00	\$202,551.56	
TAX ISR		\$24,896.33	\$24,915.40	
ADMINISTRATION IMMAR		\$22,707.17	\$22,707.17	
TOTAL		\$250,000.00	\$250,174.13	
INCOME		\$250,000.00	\$250,174.00	
DIFFERENCE		\$0.00	<b>\$174.13</b>	

The direct expense of the program amount to \$202,551.56 (\$11,914.79 dollars)

The expense per person (16) was \$ 12,659.48 (\$ 744.68 dollars)

To date, the cost of \$ 1,000.00 per month continues to be paid, for the rent of the space occupied by the bedroom in the cellar, which houses all the furniture and equipment used, pending the new start program

## HOLISTIC ASSISTANCE FOR DEPORTEES AND THEIR FAMILIES



### BUDGET CHART

1. ACCESSORIES
2. GAS
3. DOCUMENTS
4. FOOD
5. BEDROOM AJUSTMENTS
6. RENT
7. DRIVER
8. ASST. DOCUMENTALIST
9. KITCHEN ASST.
10. SOCIAL WORKER
11. PSYCHOLOGIST
12. MEXICO DIRECTOR